

## Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-30

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P 130951Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8344

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1499

EXDIS

FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM SECRETARY DENT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP DENT, FO, RO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU

REF: A. BUCHAREST 1494; B. BUCHAREST 1495 (EXDIS)

1. MAIN THEME OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S REMARKS DURING A PLEASANT HOUR-LONG TALK WITH HIM APRIL 12 WAS ROMANIA'S NEED FOR MFN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I CONVEYED TO HIM YOUR ASSURANCES THAT YOU WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD THIS GOAL AND ALSO MY CONVICTION THAT WE WOULD SUCCEED BECAUSE WE WERE PURSUING A POLICY THAT WAS RIGHT. I ALSO DESCRIBED SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES WE FACE IN THE CONGRESS. HE SAID HE WAS AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHY SOME CONGRESSMEN INSISTED ON PUTTING OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF GREATER CONTACTS. HE SEES MFN NOT JUST AS A NECESSARY WAY OF PROMOTING TRADE BUT BASICALLY AS A POLITICAL MEASURE VIS-A-VIS THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CHINA, WHICH DEMONSTRATES US INTEREST IN REMOVING BARRIERS BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

2. I REFERRED TO THE HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS IN THE US ON THE EMIGRATION QUESTION AND ALSO INDIRECTLY TO THE TRENDS IN SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICIES. I  
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ALSO EXPRESSED MY CONCERN THAT THE OPPONENTS OF THE

TRADE BILL MIGHT SUCCEED ONLY IN CUTTING DOWN ON EMIGRATION, NOT INCREASING IT. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU UNDERSTOOD MY POINT. SO FAR AS ROMANIA IS CONCERNED HE SAID THAT THE EMIGRATION QUESTION WAS NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM AND THAT IN FACT REQUESTS FOR EMIGRATION HAD BEEN DECLINING. HE MAINTAINED HOWEVER THAT HE APPRECIATED THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT AND HAD BEEN AND STILL WAS PREPARED TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY. HE CLAIMED THAT BECAUSE OF ROMANIA'S RELATIVELY HIGH BIRTH RATE THERE WAS NO NEED TO KEEP ANYONE HERE BY FORCE WHO REALLY WANTED TO LEAVE. HE THEN STRESSED THE POINT, WHICH HE SAID SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OBVIOUSLY FAILED TO GRASP, THAT THE BETTER RELATIONS ARE THE EASIER ANY PROBLEM SUCH AS EMIGRATION CAN BE SOLVED; THE WORSE THEY ARE THE MORE DIFFICULT SOLUTIONS BECOME. ON THE EMIGRATION SUBJECT PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU MENTIONED INFORMATION HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM A ZIONIST LEADER THAT ISRAEL REFUSES EMIGRATION RIGHTS OF MILITARY AGE YOUTH AND FACETIOUSLY ASKED IF WE WOULD DENY THEM MFN AS WELL.

3. IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE I HAVE REPORTED PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S CONCERN OVER THE SEVERE DROUGHT WHICH IS AFFLICTING ROMANIA AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR GRAIN PURCHASES AND CCC CREDITS.

4. HE ALSO TALKED OF HIS HOPES FOR EXPANDING US-ROMANIAN TRADE UP TO AN ANNUAL TOTAL OF A BILLION DOLLARS BY 1980 AND OF ROMANIAN EFFORTS TO FINALIZE A NUMBER OF PROJECTS INVOLVING US FIRMS. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR APPRECIATION FOR OUR GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE US BUSINESS TO TRADE WITH ROMANIA.

5. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE ORIGINAL OF YOUR LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS BECOMING THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA TO HAND HIM THAT LETTER. HE APPRECIATED THE GESTURE AND SPOKE OF THE PLEASANT MEMORIES HE HAS OF HIS VISIT TO  
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WASHINGTON LAST DECEMBER. AT THE END OF OUR CONVERSATION HE ASKED ME TO PASS ON TO YOU HIS VERY BEST WISHES. HE REITERATED HIS INVITATION TO YOU AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THIS YEAR WOULD SEE A RETURN VISIT BY YOU TO ROMANIA.  
BARNES

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